

3/30/15 Update on Sirensa Condo Methyl Bromide Release, Cruz Bay, St. John

On Saturday March 28, 12-hour time weighted average air samples for pesticides and Methyl Bromide were collected. Additionally, Summa canister samples (grab) were taken in I lower, A lower, and I upper. Wipe samples were taken in A lower. The samples taken in unit A were background samples. All of the samples collected on 3/28 were shipped today for analysis. Preliminary results for air samples could be received as early as Wednesday. Results for the wipe samples taken last week will be available in approximately 1 week. A ventilation plan for Units J upper and lower was completed and reviewed today. Ventilation of Unit J upper is scheduled to begin tomorrow. A flyer for residents and guests of the condominium has been prepared and will be distributed 3/31. The flyer will provide information about the upcoming building ventilation.

The REOC continued working with EPA ORC and Pesticides and Toxic Substances Branch to evaluate options for management of existing stocks of the fumigant, as well as the mechanisms for determining where the fumigant is currently stored, and how it has been utilized and/or stored in the past. Existing stocks have been identified at facilities on St. Thomas and St. Croix, consisting of one cylinder at each of two facilities. Staging locations for these cylinders and options for shipment to either proper disposal facilities or the original suppliers are being evaluated. The request to ATSDR for assistance in identifying any occupants which may have been exposed to methyl bromide due to fumigation in residential settings in the past was forwarded to the USVI Department of Health. In order for ATSDR to act, the request has to come directly from the USVI Department of Health. The formal request is expected from the department of health this evening. ATSDR may be able to mobilize personnel to St. John as soon as Thursday.

Tomorrow, crews will begin ventilation of Unit J upper. The unit will be ventilated for several hours after which monitoring will be conducted to determine effectiveness. Ventilation of Unit J lower could begin as soon as Wednesday. In addition, EPA will be meeting with the condominium complex management to gather information needed by ATSDR.

R2 REOC remains the point of contact for all EPA's activities related to this incident.

Personnel on-site today included 2 OSCs and 1 RST contractor, a third OSC arrived today.

EPA is still working cooperatively with DPNR, the St. John Fire Department, the St. John Police Department, Terminix, ATSDR, the USVI DOH and the condo complex management company.